

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 21 and 30. Add new claims 31-40.

31. (new) A method of processing shellfish waste for livestock feed comprising the steps of:

- a) drying the shellfish waste;
- b) grinding the shellfish waste to create a meal;
- c) introducing the shellfish waste meal into a process flow;
- d) mixing said shellfish waste meal with an acid;
- e) adding a liquid to said shellfish waste meal creating a slurry;
- f) maintaining the pH of the slurry at a pH less than 4.0;
- g) intermittently stirring and settling the slurry until no further visible signs of reactions are indicated;
- h) draining the slurry to create a treated shellfish meal;
- i) adding a liquid to the treated shellfish waste meal to bring the pH to the range of 6.5 to 7.0;
- j) draining the treated shellfish waste meal;
- k) rinsing the treated shellfish waste meal; and
- l) drying the treated shellfish waste meal.

32. (new) The method as recited in claim 31 whereby said step d of adding an acid, said acid is hydrochloric acid.

33. (new) The method as recited in claim 32 whereby said step of h further comprises draining the treated shellfish waste meal having an effluent discharge pH that is less than or equal to 4.0.

34. (new) The method as recited in claim 33 whereby said step g of stirring and settling the slurry is timed within the range of 4-8 hours.

35. (new) The method as recited in claim 34 whereby said addition of a liquid comprises H₂O.

36. (new) The method as recited in claim 31 whereby the treated shellfish waste meal comprises:

- a protein percentage by weight in a range from 47- 62 %;
- a phosphorous percentage by weight of less than .5 %; and
- a calcium percentage by weight of less than 1 %;

37. (new) A method of processing shellfish waste for protein supplement comprising the steps of:

- a) drying the shellfish waste;
- b) grinding the shellfish waste to create a meal;
- c) introducing the shellfish waste meal into a process flow;

- d) mixing said shellfish waste meal with an acid;
- e) adding a liquid to said shellfish waste meal creating a slurry;
- f) maintaining the pH of the slurry at a pH less than 4.0;
- g) intermittently stirring and settling the slurry until no further visible signs of reactions are indicated;
- h) draining the slurry to create a treated shellfish meal;
- i) adding a liquid to the treated shellfish waste meal to bring the pH to the range of 6.5 to 7.0;
- j) draining the treated shellfish waste meal;
- k) rinsing the treated shellfish waste meal; and
- l) drying the treated shellfish waste meal whereby said shellfish waste meal comprises a protein percentage by weight in a range from 47- 62 %, a phosphorous percentage by weight of less than .5 %, and a calcium percentage by weight in a range from 0- 2 %.

38.(new) The method as recited in claim 37 whereby said step d of adding an acid, said acid is hydrochloric acid.

39. (new) The method as recited in claim 38 whereby said step of h further comprises draining the treated shellfish waste meal having an effluent discharge pH that is less than or equal to 4.0.

40. (new) The method as recited in claim 39 whereby said step g of stirring and settling the slurry is timed within the range of 4-8 hours.